The Japanese in California

Comments in the California Press

NOT STATE QUESTIONS.

[Editorial in the Fresno Republican, April 12, 1920]

A meeting of various anti-Japanese societies is reported to have decided on the circulation of initiative petitions for new anti-Japanese laws. This is of course their privilege. But the very vagueness of most of the published descriptions of the laws they propose, demonstrates how little occasion there is for their proposed action. Practically everything they have found interesting enough to discuss is either unconstitutional, or is within the sole power of Congress and outside the jurisdiction of the state.

The reason, of course, is obvious. There is only one important Japanese question, and that is one which the state can do nothing about. We can not prohibit the immigration of Japanese, deport those who are here, nor deprive them of the equal protection of the laws. These are the only things the anti-Japanese care anything about, and they are all national, not state questions. We can not deny native-born Japanese the right to vote. The law of California does deny that right to native-born Chinese, but the law is null and void, and they do vote. We can not limit their right to work at any jobs they can get, and to live where they please. We can not even limit their right to own and lease land for business, manufacturing, or residence purposes. All we can do is to forbid them to buy farm land, and that we have already done.

Among the laws proposed is one excluding Japanese from the state, with the proviso that if it be declared invalid as in violation of the treaty it shall not go into effect until the expiration of the treaty, in 1923. If this were all, then why the hurry to propose the law by initiative in November, instead of to the legislature in January? But, of course, the law would be unconstitutional permanently, with or without a treaty. Whoever has the right under national laws to live in the United States has the right to live in any state, regardless of state laws. Another proposal is an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, denying citizenship to those whose parents are ineligible to citizenship. If California is to propose such an amendment, it can be done much quicker by the legislature than by the initiative. It would take the action of two-thirds of the states, by legislatures or by elected conventions, in either event, but the legislature could do California's part in a day. An initiative would take two elections, the assembling of a convention, and at the shortest a year's time, besides imposing a similar dilatory process on each of the thirty-five other states.

We might as well realize that the things the state can do about the Japanese question are very few and com-

paratively unimportant, and that we are more likely to get national and international support on the big questions if we conduct ourselves with self-respecting discretion in the small ones.

ANTI-JAPANESE AGITATION

[D. E. Myers, of Riverside, in the Riverside Press, March 2, 1920]

Editor Press: I have read with much interest the discussion of the Japanese question, at the last meeting of the Present Day Club.

My sympathies are with the Japanese, not because they are Japanese, but because they are human beings and as such are endowed by the Creator of all men with certain rights of which they can not be deprived by the people of California or any human government.

When God created man he laid upon him the responsibility of earning his own living. In order to do this he must work, and in order to guard against want he must save, and in order to save he must produce more than he consumes himself, therefore the right to work, produce and save are natural rights, of which man can not be deprived, no matter what his color, nationality, or previous conditions may have been. Human life, human progress and civilization itself, depend upon the full and free exercise of those rights. Our fathers in making their statement to the world giving their reasons for organizing a new government, stated the case as follows: "We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal (not all white men, but 'all men') that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Admitting these facts to be true the standards of civic virtue established by the necessities of life are industry, thrift and efficiency in production. Do the Japanese measure up to these standards? If they do, what right has any one to say that they shall not cultivate the soil of California, if living here, to produce the necessities of life that not only they need to preserve life, but we need also.

In the division of labor which has taken place in the world to supply the needs of humanity, every one is afforded the opportunity of doing that which he can do best and exchanging his surplus productions in the market of the world for other things he needs that others can produce better than he can. In this way production is increased, and the cost of living is reduced to the consumer. There are many things we can produce cheaper and better than the Japanese; there are some things he can produce cheaper and better than we can. Among these are garden stuff and small fruit. Why not let him do it?

For centuries Japan has struggled with the problem of feeding an over population from a restricted acreage. In doing so she has naturally found out many things that it is important for us to know. Through all the centuries of her national life she has been studying and assimilating the best methods of production. With the help she gets from the sea she is now actually feeding 45,000,000 people from 95,000 square miles of land. This is because cultivation in Japan is truly intensive, not only in farming, but in market gardening, as well. When we consider this latter science, which the Japanese has learned from his necessity of adapting soils to the growing of each kind of vegetable and grain to its individual nurture, he has demonstrated the fact that

under such culture the production of an acre of land is almost unlimited. There has been grown from one acre in one year 125,000 pounds of vegetables.

This is the practical science the Japanese nation has brought to us. Her people are demonstrating to us every day in the year that farming is an exact science and not a game of chance, as has been practiced in this country heretofore. In view of the fact that in many of the nations in Europe, the people are starving and we must help to feed them, and the further fact that the abundant supply of food for our own nation is fundamental and vital to our life, and the progress of all our industries, could the Japanese have brought to us anything more valuable than the knowledge of how to increase the productions of our soil?

Senator Phelan, for whose benefit this race agitation has been organized, is represented to have said in his speech before the U. S. Senate: "The infiltration of Asiatics is destructive. They have gradually taken over cultivation of various products in California. It may be true that production has slightly increased, but we have lost what is dearer. California refuses to permit its native population to be deprived of the soil."

To show the utter absurdity of the Japanese or any other race dispossessing our native population of the soil, I will call attention to our Hawaiian possessions, where the Orientals outnumber the whites nearly five to one, and have for thirty years, and yet practically all the valuable real estate, consisting mostly of sugar and coffee plantations, belong to the whites, and will continue so. Why? Because the whites have a greater capacity for organization, for doing business on a large scale, for making other people do the work, while they enjoy the profits. It will be observed that nature in one way or another, through economic law, will take care of all these phases of progressive development if we can only keep the half-baked politicians and demagogues from butting in.

There is another thing about which Senator Phelan is disturbed, and that is the way the Japanese multiply. Notwithstanding they have the authority of nature, the Bible and Roosevelt for doing so. Still the Senator thinks it is taking a mean advantage. In vain it is pointed out the whites have the same rights and privileges, but he seems to be obsessed with the idea they will not exercise them, which only deepens his gloom. A locality near Los Angeles seems to have been found where the climate and other conditions are so favorable that one-third of the births were Japanese, time and specific place not mentioned. The Senator figures from this, that if such work is allowed to continue, in ninety years (I believe Friend Cuttle, at the Present Day Club put it at ninety-nine years) the white race will practically have passed in its check and the Japanese will be running the whole thing.

In order to relieve their minds from the suffering such gloomy foreboding must cause I will point to the fact that the Russians, Poles, Germans, Greeks, and Italians, all classed white, multiply quite as rapidly as the Japanese, and greatly outnumber them, even in California, so the great calamity prophesied by the Senator may be averted after all.

D. E. MYERS.

LYMAN GAGE ON THE JAPANESE

[From San Francisco Journal of Commerce, April 8, 1920]

"Japanese in California are law abiding and hard workers and are the victims of unfair racial prejudice," according to Lyman J. Gage, former Secretary of the

United States Treasury, who is at the Palace Hotel. The former Secretary came up from his home in San Diego and is on his way to Japan, where, with a number of other prominent Americans, he will make a study of the Japanese people and their institutions.

"Nothing that I have seen warrants the oft published statement that the presence of the Japanese in California is a menace to the civilization of the state and its moral atmosphere," he said. "I am not appointing myself as champion of the Japanese in California, but I like fair play—and the Japanese are not getting it.

"The United States and Japan should be good friends and a help to each other. The two countries are neighbors, trade with each other and therefore there should be a cordial feeling. If the Japanese government were to discriminate against Americans, how would we feel about it?

"There is no reason for uneasiness about the Japanese in California or any other place in the United States. California is millions of dollars richer today for their coming. Their farms are models and they know how to get the most out of the soil.

"Immigration of the Japanese as well as other races and nationalities should be restricted. No country should be allowed to send its people here in unlimited numbers. Congress could very easily pass a bill limiting the number of people coming here. Five per cent of the past number of Japanese to settle in California would be a fair percentage. That would be about a thousand a year. If California or the United States can't absorb that many Japanese then we ought to quit business. This great country will be benefited by the coming of this industrious, thrifty people."

ALWAYS AT HAND

[Bakersfield Californian, September 22, 1919]

The Japanese scare breaks out every now and then in new and virulent form, despite the fact that the thoughtful person sees nothing in the relations between this country and Japan, or between Japan and the rest of the world, to be frightened over.

One paper figures it out that the birth rate among Japanese in America is much greater than among our own people, and taking some percentages as a basis, it estimates that in 160 years the Japanese native population in the United States may be 216,000,000. Some increase, considering that the present population is less than a quarter of a million.

That's about as sensible as some other deductions that are drawn in connection with the Japanese. When some of our exchanges can't find anything else to work up a scare over, there is always the Japanese question at hand and serviceable. And the results they work out are along the lines of the girl with the basket of eggs who figured out her future wealth when the eggs were hatched and the chickens in turn became layers and mothers and so on to the end of the chapter.

SENATOR PHELAN AND THE JAPANESE

[Editorial in Modesto Herald, April 12, 1919]

Everything points to the conclusion that U. S. Senator Phelan was on the whole "playing politics" when, a few weeks ago, he sprung the sensational story that Japanese with the underhanded support of the Japanese govern-

ment were concluding a deal for the purchase of concession of 800,000 acres of land in Mexico on the California border.

Senator Phelan comes up for re-election next year. It must be said that he has been a negative member of the august body in which he represents us as one of our two members. On the other hand, his dear friend can not say that he has been a positive member of that body, rearing above the average.

Senator Phelan's "sensation" has turned out to be a mere "mare's nest." It has served its apparent purpose of getting him personally before the legislature of California and a little more prominently before the people of the state who will next year pass on his claims for re-election.

Phelan knew, of course, that his largely baseless agitation here at this time would embarrass his very much harassed party chief, President Wilson, in the latter's contentions before the peace conference.

But Phelan didn't give a damn about that—party loyalty, Wilson and his high idealisms looking to universal and permanent peace were subordinated to the Phelan ambition.

We note with pleasure that our State Senator Dennett did not "fall" for the Phelan re-election propaganda. We all know that Dennett would never fail us in the face of an actual menace. Nor will the national government fail us should such a condition present. In that emergency—the Phelan "situation"—we will promptly "clean up" not only Mexico but Japan also if the evidence warrants. We will not be "to proud to fight."

Statistics as to the Japanese immigration, land ownership and leaseholds, "picture brides" and all the rest of the agitation, by no means indicate a menace.

For the rest, we need hold only to our policies ranking Japan on an even basis internationally, and the Japanese subject to our laws as to immigration, landholdings and leases, and whatever else—just as we are subject to and acquiesce in their laws in the same respects.

CALIFORNIA MISSION TO JAPAN

[From San Francisco Call, April 26, 1920]

Wallace M. Alexander, chairman of the Japanese relations committee of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, recently returned from the Orient, made public today a report on the trip in which he expressed the opinion that as a result of the conference between members of the committee and Baron E. Shibusawa, Viscount Kaneko, Baron Sakatani, and many other influential Japanese, a beginning was made that may lead to a solution of the international difficulties between Japan and the United States.

"The American-Japanese Relations Committees of Tokyo and San Francisco pledged themselves before the conclusion of the conferences," Alexander says, "to use their utmost endeavors to bring about a situation so that the vital and intricate questions that concern the peace of both nations can not be used by politicians and agitators to bring discord between Japan and the United States, but can be referred to some impartial committee appointed by both governments, to study carefully and to suggest a solution."

At the conferences Japanese ownership of land in California, immigration, coöperation of capital, cable com-

munication, exchange of professorships, trade arbitration and industrial questions were discussed.

"All the members of both committees were given every opportunity to state their views frankly and freely," says Alexander's report. "The greater part of the time was consumed in a discussion of the perplexing situation in California relative to the ownership of lands by the Japanese.

"Our committee endeavored to give their Japanese friends an absolutely clear picture of the development of sentiment in California and the United States concerning this matter, and every phase of the proposition was entered into, including the racial and economic sides of the question. A frank statement was also made as to the Americanization of Japanese in the Hawaiian Islands and the significance of the present Japanese labor strike on the Island of Oahu.

"The matter of having arbitration committees to which disputes arising from commercial complications could be submitted, was brought up by the chairman of the San Francisco committee. It was brought out that our San Francisco Chamber of Commerce has an arbitration committee to which disputes among its members are referred and that this has worked out very successfully in San Francisco.

"The suggestion was made that if a committee of responsible Japanese business men could be formed in Tokyo, to which questions in dispute between merchants of both countries could be submitted, it would tend to a greater feeling of confidence and friendliness between the two countries and prevent the clogging of the courts with lawsuits, the final results of which are frequently very unsatisfactory.

"The conference took the matter under serious consideration and we hope that something definite can be evolved from the suggestion."

CHURCH FEDERATION ON THE JAPANESE QUESTION

[From San Francisco Chronicle, April 2, 1920]

The purchase of real property by Japanese in the interests of their American-born children is not only legitimate but advisable and the proposal absolutely to prohibit the leasing of agricultural land is unjustifiable, according to a statement issued yesterday by the San Francisco Bay Federation of Churches. The federation, which consists of ministers and laymen in four counties bordering San Francisco Bay and has as president Fred Parr, president of the Parr-McCormick Steamship Company and the Parr Terminal Company, has resolved:

In view of the acuteness of the political situation in California and of its international aspects we deem it wise to make the following utterance:

1—The restriction of Oriental immigration is both necessary and wise, and the existing agreement between Japan and America should be continued, and, if necessary, strengthened.

2—We deprecate the spirit of venom and bitterness that is being sedulously injected into this discussion. Our national honor and our sense of international morality demand that our alien residents and their children be treated justly.

3—We heartily indorse the effort of our national government for the Americanization of our alien elements and believe that in order to Americanize them we should

deal with them sympathetically and in accordance with our traditional spirit of equity and fair play; otherwise we will nullify our attempts at making loyal Americans of them and their children.

The statement of which this resolution is part argues that it is the instinct and duty of all parents to provide for the well-being and education of their children, and that adoption of the proposal to prohibit the leasing of agricultural land would condemn the Japanese to a condition little better than that of serfdom or slavery.

PROPOSED INITIATIVE MEASURE

[From Byron Times, April 16, 1920]

Anti-Japanese legislation, now proposed, threatens the owners of Delta lands in the Sacramento and San Joaquin at a time when labor is more greatly needed than ever in the history of these farming districts.

One section of the proposed bill is absolutely confiscatory, for it denies the right of any citizen to lease land for any purpose whatever to a Japanese, under penalty of the state confiscating the citizen's lands.

Colonel J. P. Irish, prominent Delta farmer, sounds the warning—that every man may know exactly what he faces. It is inconceivable that such an anarchistic measure could receive the support of the people.

Colonel Irish writes:

Editor Byron Times: I have examined the anti-Japanese initiative measure, proposed by United States Senator Phelan and State Senator Inman.

It proposes to remove Japanese children from the guardianship of their parents and force them under the guardianship of the Public Administrator.

If Japan were to pass such a law respecting American children domiciled there, our government would demand its repeal, backed by a threat of war.

The measure also provides that if a citizen of California lease land for any purpose to a Japanese, the state shall at once confiscate the citizen's real estate!

It will be seen that this is not only a destructive blow at the farm lands of the Delta, but it turns the Japanese out of doors and leaves them unsheltered and homeless.

Malignity can go no further except to murder these people.

When it is remembered that when thousands of our people in San Francisco were turned out of their homes by the earthquake and fire of 1906, hungry and houseless, Japan was the only foreign country that pitied them and sent $250,000 in gold to the relief committee, of which this same Senator Phelan was a member.

This initiative measure, if adopted, will disclose us as the only people in Christendom who in their extremity accept food and shelter, and then stab the giver in the back.

THE JAPANESE IN CALIFORNIA

[Ernest L. Berry, in the Sacramento Bee, March 15, 1920]

To the Editor of the Bee—Sir: Having read your two interesting editorials on the Japanese question in the Saturday evening issue, I would like to say that the policy of Japanese persecution and Japanese baiting is a very wrong diplomatic and commercial policy.

It is all right to restrict the number of laborers of any race coming to this country and every nation recognizes

that another nation has that right. But to brand a race as great and powerful as the Japanese as inferior to negroes, Malays, Turks, Greeks, Mexicans, Indians, is going too far, and will react on the commerce and diplomacy of this country.

When you brand a race or class of people as inferior they will soon give you opportunity to dispise them.

By giving the Japanese the right to become citizens on the same terms as other races, they in time would be assimilated better than Mexicans, etc., as they learn English more thoroughly than many others, but being persecuted and baited like the Jews were, they naturally become clannish.

The best way to weaken the military party in Japan is to treat the Japanese in the United States, Canada, Australia, etc., fairly.

These immigrants came here to escape the poverty and tyranny of their homeland.

The small number of Japanese here, even after the time elapsed for naturalization, would not amount to anything in a political way, anyway. * * * *

ERNEST L. BERRY,
535 Virginia Street, Vallejo, March 7, 1920.

THE JAPANESE IN CALIFORNIA

[E. Clemens Horst, Presidio Terrace, San Francisco, in the Sacramento Bee, March 27, 1920]

To the Editor of the Bee—Sir: I have listened to and considered with great interest the recent address on the subject of Japanese immigration before the immigration committee of the Commonwealth Club, by Mr. V. S. McClatchy, and have read also your able editorials in the Sacramento Bee on this important subject.

Perhaps you may be interested in the viewpoint of one who does not wholly agree with your views, though this disagreement may be because the writer, while disagreeing with you on minor points, goes much further than you on the major points.

You may draw your own conclusions whether or not the writer is biased in his opinions, because of personal interest.

For the past thirty years I have hired many Japanese laborers, have done much business with Japan and have found the employment of Japanese laborers and the dealings with Japanese merchants satisfactory; but I have concurrently employed many more laborers of other races and have done much more business with the peoples of other races than I have done with Japanese.

In considering the subject of Japanese immigration I am looking, or am trying to look, at the subject wholly from the viewpoint of an American whose policy is America and Americans first, last and all the time.

With that policy in mind, I go on the theory that our country has been developed far enough to make further immigration not only unnecessary, but absolutely harmful to America and Americans, and, therefore, I would go as closely as is practicable to stopping immigration altogether.

When we get to that viewpoint, then the Japanese question cures itself.

The Japanese that came to this country under our country's invitation should not have curtailed in any way the rights and privileges that were held out to them as an inducement for coming here. The same policy holds good as to all other races.

The Japanese who have entered our country without our invitation; that is, those who have landed illegally,

should be deported. This same policy also holds good as to all other races.

If our country has pursued a mistaken policy with reference to immigration from any country, or of any class of men, it is our own fault, and for us to squeal as to any people or race that came here legally, or to abridge the rights and advantages we held out to them, would be a case of welching on our part.

In any case, the number of Japanese who are now legally within this country need not worry us as much as the number of various other nationalities that are in our land and are still coming in endless numbers. It is time to call a quick halt.

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CULTIVATE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH JAPAN

[Editorial in California Christian Advocate, January 15, 1920]

An article written by Mr. Theodore Roosevelt seven months before his death upon "What Japan and the Japanese Have Stood Firm for During the World's Struggle for Democracy's Ideals" has recently been published. It ought to have a very wide reading. We especially commend it to people in California who have been misled upon a great many things Japanese because of Senator Phelan's agitation in the Senate upon the subject and its power as a partisan political slogan.

The following paragraphs ought to be read with thoughtful consideration lest through political demagoguery our country will be led into a position which will not only be humiliating in the years to come, but interfere with the welfare of a large part of the human race. Mr. Roosevelt says:

"Japan's career during the past fifty years has been without parallel in world history. Japan has played a part of extraordinary usefulness to the allied cause in this war for civilization. Japan's friendship should be peculiarly dear to the United States and every far-sighted public man in the United States should do his utmost to keep a cordial working agreement of sympathy between the two nations. These three facts should be continually in the minds of every good American; and especially at this precise moment. * * *

"Japan is playing a great part in the civilized world: a good understanding between her and the United States is essential to international progress, and it is a grave offense against the United States for any man, by word or deed, to jeopardize this good understanding."

THE PICTURE BRIDE

[The San Francisco Bulletin, October 31, 1919]

Agitation against Japanese "picture bride" marriages culminated today in action by the Japanese Association of America, with headquarters here, to stamp out the practice.

Resolutions have been adopted by the Japanese Association tabooing the system as in "contravention of the American conception of marriage" and "out of harmony with the growing ideals of the Japanese race." Action will be taken to do away with the custom of arranging marriages for Japanese men in America by the exchange of photographs with girls in Japan.

The Japanese government is considering the advis-

ability of prohibiting the practice further, according to information received here by the association.

The following statement was issued by the Japanese Association of America from its offices at 444 Bush Street, today:

It is the sense of the board of directors of the Japanese Association of America that the so-called "picture marriage," which has been practiced among certain classes of Japanese residing in this country, should be abolished because it is not only in contravention of the accepted American conception of marriage, but is also out of harmony with the growing ideals of the Japanese themselves. With this belief in mind, the board of directors will make the utmost efforts to carry out this resolution.

The board of directors does not entertain the slightest doubt that this recommendation will be cheerfully and readily accepted by the members of the association as well as by Japanese residents, who are not its members. Through the persistent and painstaking campaign for Americanization which has been extensively carried on by the Japanese Association in the past several months, the Japanese in this state have come to realize that the practice of marriage through exchange of photographs is incompatible with the ideals and customs of the American people.

We understand that the government of Japan has also been considering the advisability of prohibiting this practice. Without awaiting a formal announcement on this matter on the part of the Japanese government, we have come to the conclusion that we should request it to adopt adequate measures to stop this practice.

The above decision on the part of the board of directors implies no intimation that "picture marriage" is illegal and that the coming of "picture brides" to America has been in violation of the "gentlemen's agreement."

It must be emphasized that "picture marriage" is a misnomer, and that it is not so simple a process as the term apparently indicates.

When a man living in America, desires to marry, but is prevented by various reasons to go home, he writes to his parents and asks them to find a suitable bride. The parents, following the usual customs and rules, fix on an eligible person. Then they intimate to the girl's parents that they are desirous of securing her marriage to their son in America.

The parents on either side spare no pains in inquiring into the character, social standing, family relations, genealogy, health and education of the young man and woman. If this investigation proves satisfactory, both to the parents and to the prospective groom and bride, the man in America sends his photograph to the woman and receives her photograph in exchange.

This "interview" through photographs proving satisfactory to both parties, the nuptial knot is tied at a ceremonial dinner at which the groom, living in America, is naturally absent, but which is attended by the bride and the parents and relatives of both sides. This done the parents register the marriage with the proper authorities. This marriage has been regarded as valid both by the Japanese and the American governments.

We consider it most important and necessary that the Japanese in America should marry and settle down in domestic life, because the home is not only essential to the wholesome existence of individuals, but is also the foundation of a stable national and social structure. The Japanese are going to stay in this country. If they are going to stay here we consider it best for them to marry and make homes. Since they have shown a greater

desire for home life, drinking, gambling and other evil practices among them have become much less and the moral condition of the Japanese community has greatly improved.

There is no question as to the desirability of the Japanese settling down in home life. At the same time we urge that in marrying and making their homes the Japanese in America should do nothing which is contrary to the ideas and customs of the country in which they live.

We shall take immediate steps to carry out this decision, but we realize that the complete enforcement of such a measure requires time. There must be a small number of women who have recently been married through exchange of photographs and who are expecting to sail for America. It would be unjust to deprive these women of the privilege to come and join their husbands here. But when this decision comes into effect no more marriages of this nature will be permitted. We are, therefore, confident that within a few months the coming of picture brides will completely cease.

[Note: The Japanese government ceased to issue passports to picture brides at the end of February, 1920. But as a passport is valid for six months from the date of its issuance, it is reasonable to presume that picture brides, who had secured passports before the above date, will continue to come until the latter part of July, although undoubtedly in smaller numbers.]

STEPHENS IS RIGHT

[Editorial in the Fresno Republican, November 2, 1919]

"God give us a Governor," prays the Sacramento Bee, because Governor Stephens has refused the Bee's frantic appeal to call a special session for the emergency passage of the Bee's anti-Japanese legislation.

Instead of praying to God to give us a Governor, let us rather thank Him that He has done so. The Republican has not always agreed with Governor Stephens, and particularly it has sometimes thought that his decisions were not always prompt or firm enough. But there can be no question either of the correctness or the firmness of this decision. If this legislature were to be turned loose to wrangle over anti-Japanese legislation, there would be no end of buncombe debate, and Governor Stephens would have to veto most of the legislation passed.

The Japanese problem in California is potentially the biggest thing in the world. It is the most important focus of the world race question. It is the entry through which, if ever, the preponderance of white civilization will be destroyed. It is the issue over which, if ever, the peace of the world will again be broken. It is in its possibilities so great a matter that to deal with it in any small and reckless way is as inexcusable as smoking cigarettes in a powder magazine. The local questions of our small Japanese problem in California must be met locally.

Investigation has already been started to determine with accuracy just how far present legislation is working. When the facts are ascertained we must meet the question of steering between justice to the Japanese already legitimately here and menace to our Occidental institutions. Sudden and hysterical demagogy is no way to meet even this local problem. And when it is realized that this local problem is located at one end of a fuse the other end of which might set off the powder maga-

zine of the world, recklessness on our part becomes inexcusable.

It is just because this local problem is so bound up with world problems that we are right in determining that it must grow no larger. But, for the same reason, we owe it to the world and to ourselves to conduct ourselves with prudence and decency as to such problems as we have. This has been the policy of every Governor of California since the question became acute. The exact contrary is unfortunately the policy of an irresponsible faction of every California legislature. Governor Stephens, in refusing to permit the precipitation of the question now and in determining, as we assume he has, that when it does come up it shall be met sanely, is rendering a service to the state which should be appreciated by sober-minded citizens in exact proportion as it arouses the howling indignation of the less responsible.

STEPHENS AND THE JAPANESE QUESTION

[Editorial in the Los Angeles Express, November 1, 1919]

Governor Stephens declines to include in his call for a special session of the California legislature any subject other than equal suffrage for the womanhood of the nation.

In this action the Governor has taken the wise and patriotic course, and on sober second thought, even those deeply concerned in a solution of the Oriental question and the living cost will concede the wisdom of his firm stand.

Governor Stephens makes it very plain that he is profoundly interested in each of these other problems pressing for consideration, one of which is of special moment to California, the other of vital consequence to Californians in common with the people of every state in the union. Both of these questions are, however, too important and far-reaching in their bearing to be safely entrusted to a body called upon to act hurriedly and under a very pressing sense of economy in time and expenditure. The Japanese question is, as the Governor says, a most important issue in California, altogether too important to be handled either safely or wisely in a crisis like this and in a hurried session without ample time for deliberation. It has its international bearing and this is no time to complicate international relations by forcing such an issue. It can be handled later with greater deliberation and calmer judgment, and rightly handled.

THE JAPANESE IN CALIFORNIA

[A. Bert Bynon, in the Selma Irrigator, September 20, 1919]

The Japs may be a menace to California, yet from what I have been able to gather from the fruit growers and beet growers of this state a much more definite and tangible menace to these two great sources of wealth would be the absence of Japs. I don't go as strong on these "menaces" as some people. This is possibly due to the fact that "the foot of travel lengthens the stirrup of belief," and because I have seen several highly promising menaces fail to function, even when guaranteed deadly by quite as high authority as our present crop of alarmists.

Old settlers of California will recall the money-back guarantee of Dennis Kearny, in the early seventies, that

the Chinese were about to put the kibosh on the white race on the Pacific Coast. This was when the coast employed many Chinese in work on railroads, as domestics, and for other purposes that white men refused to work at. Then we had our scare over the Hindu invasion, also hopefully promising in the eyes of many of putting us out of commission. As we are still here, in more or less force, the backers of these two menaces have now joined the ranks of those who see utter ruin in the presence of the Jap, and, of course, the chorus is much stronger than when the forces were divided.

The evidence of many men establishes a fact. We have the evidence of many, very many, fruit growers to the effect that white men will not work in the fruit as the Japs will, and do. The work must be done, or there can be no crop. The Jap does it. The white man will not. He does not get the work from any sentimental preference, but simply because he is more reliable and more industrious than his white hater. Any one loves a horse better than an auto truck, yet the auto truck now threatens to put the horse on the same back shelf reserved for that element of the white race distinguished for a marked distaste for work and with a capacity for nothing else. Indeed, I wouldn't be a bit surprised to see the horses of this state organize and begin a fierce propaganda against all gas wagons.

THE JAPANESE IN RIVERSIDE COUNTY

[San Diego Sun, October 1, 1919]

That Japanese, at least in Riverside County, are far from obtaining the control of California land which certain newspapers and public orators would have the public believe is indicated by records at the court house.

These show that in and around the City of Riverside not more than twelve lots are owned by Japanese. In the rest of the county approximately fifty acres are held by the little yellow men.

In addition to this, however, some land has been leased by Japanese, principally in the Coachella Valley. Definite figures as to the tracts Japs are occupying in the valley were not obtainable yesterday, but it was estimated at 200 acres.

"There seems to be a good-sized number of Jap farmers in this valley," said a Coachella man, "but I must say they make admirable citizens."

AMERICA FOR AMERICANS

[Editorial in El Centro Zajero, May 13, 1919]

Repeatedly in this country we have heard the cry raised against the immigration of foreign elements, the Know-Nothing movement, the A. P. A. movement, the Dennis Kearny anti-Chinese agitation and later the anti-Japanese crusade. It is a spirit that has found existence in every other country menaced with immigration of foreigners. In China they called it the Boxer movement and in Turkey the Young Turk movement.

Now there is being started in the northern counties a crusade against the renting of land to Japanese.

We are believers in the amended doctrine of America

for American institutions. We do not believe in the antagonism of races, but we do consider it right and proper that we protect our governmental and industrial and family ideals from any invasion by a foreign race, and we think that can be done without discrimination. We look on the Japanese as a race that in some respects is even superior to the Caucasian, even as the Caucasian race is superior in other respects. We believe that the American has as much of value to learn from the Japanese as he from us. But there is a great evil in the Japanese colonization of certain districts in California, and that evil in self defense we must correct.

We have repeatedly expressed the opinion that the solution is to be found in laws which will make it illegal for members of any alien race to settle in any political subdivision of the state—ward or township—after an authorized public official has proclaimed that that particular alien race already numbers 10 per cent of the total population.

No part of America will be menaced by an alien race that does not exceed 10 per cent of the population of any division, and there is no more reason for antagonizing Japanese colonization under proper restrictions than there is for restricting colonization of other races, some of which have neither the industry nor the cleanliness and other virtues of the Japanese.

JAPANESE IN VENTURA

[Ventura Post, April 10, 1919]

While much interest is centering over the state in the bill introduced by State Senator Inman against land leasing to Japanese, it is apparent that no condition arises in this county for one, which requires such a law.

The records show that there is only one ranch in this county owned by Japanese and that is a waste tract in the Fillmore district, which would be worthless to any Occidental, but which the thrifty little brown men have cultivated to an exceptional degree.

According to the records in the office of County Recorder Argabrite, there has been but little leasing of land in this county to Japanese within the past six months and in fact the practice has never shown any considerable number of cases in Ventura County.

JAPANESE HOUSED BETTER THAN WHITES

[Sacramento Union, June 15, 1919]

A report filed with the State Commission of Immigration and Housing by Leo Mott, Inspector, condemns housing conditions in the Winters Ranch district, especially where white labor is employed. The Japanese have been better provided for.

The criticism has been confirmed by Edward A. Brown, Director of the Bureau of Camp Sanitation, after investigating Mott's charges. Brown says that when the amended sanitation law goes into effect July 22 the state will be able to enforce improvements.

INCITING DISORDER

[Editorial in the Oakland Tribune, January 5, 1920]

The expected has happened: a few ubiquitous individuals of Oroville, who thought affairs should not be permitted to take a peaceful course, attacked a Japanese householder who had a Japanese flag displayed in his home. A small riot followed, in which three Japanese were injured.

This is the natural outcome of the inflammatory campaigns of politicians and jingo newspapers striving to divert attention from their real purposes. There was nothing unlawful, and presumably nothing improper, in the Japanese having a Japanese flag in his possession. Barely a year ago every patriotic American might properly have had, and many of them did have, in his home or place of business a flag of France, Great Britain, Belgium, Italy, China, Portugal, and Japan. If they are normally sentimental persons they are preserving those flags as a reminder of the terrible period in which the nations represented were in a life-and-death alliance for the overthrow of a common enemy. The Oroville disturbers probably would be disposed to tear up any one of these flags if its appearance did not happen to please them.

But the reason for the open manifestation of hostility against the Japanese resident was the animosity incited by reckless statements as to fact and untimely, distinctly harmful, derogatory utterances in the personal political interests of office seekers. For instance, Senator Phelan, who is a candidate for reëlection, has stated in a public address that Japanese own 5000 acres of land in Merced County, whereas the published statement of the County Clerk of that county lists less than 500 acres. He has made statements about the number of Japanese males and so-called picture brides entering this state which do not at all coincide with the official records of the Immigration Bureau. Senator Inman and others have indulged extravagances which can have no other purpose than to arouse passion and create hatred which will be inimical to a just settlement of any problems connected with Japanese immigration.

If riots and outrages against Japanese residing here according to existing law take place to the grave embarrassment of the relations between this country and the Japanese government, to the danger of domestic peace, these politicians who have been sowing the seed must take responsibility for the scandalous and hateful crop.

Whatever the merits of the objection to permitting alien Japanese from acquiring control of any more land in California, and the objection admittedly possesses merit, the question can not be solved by politicians as they run for office. It should be taken up and disposed of by the state government of California in accordance with the law and the best interests of the people of this state.

Such episodes as that of Oroville, though trifling in their immediate local aspect, are potentially very distressing to the course of international good-will. Some of the fomenters of trouble will say they care nothing about good-will between nations, but they are not worthy of an audience, except to be with a jailer. Moreover mob attacks are a disgrace to the state and the nation, whether committed in California or the Carolinas. They become a blot upon the fair name of a community and those responsible for them should have a care.

THE JAPANESE IN CALIFORNIA

[Aubrey Jones, in the San Francisco Bulletin, December 22, 1919]

Editor the Bulletin: Applying as test logical analysis it is proved that the attitude of the white nations toward Japan as a country and the Japanese as a nation, as a race, is wholly inconsistent and therefore wrong.

Japan was wanted and was accepted as one of the nations that constituted the entente at war against the central powers. This was an admission by the white nations of Japan's racial equality with them.

At the peace conference at Versailles Japan was participant as one of the world's great powers—one of the "Big Five." This, too, was an admission of Japan's racial equality with the white nations.

When Japan's spokesman at the peace conference asked for specific recognition of her racial equality as a nation it was refused. At the same time, however, Japan was besought to continue to "sit in" at the peace table. This was in effect an admission of Japan's racial equality as a nation, albeit declared recognition of such equality had just been denied by the conference.

Fearing Japan's withdrawal were another discrimination made against her by act of the conference, her request for cession to her of Germany's rights in Shantung was acceded to. This was further admission of Japan's equality as a nation with the white nations. Because it was deemed both desirable and necessary that Japan should be a charter member of the League of Nations.

Why this, if Japan be not worthy of recognition as having as a nation equality with white nations?

It is argued in certain quarters that to keep Japan in the League of Nations is essential on the score of our nation's self-preservation. And yet those who thus argue seek to invidiously discriminate against Japanese as a race, as a nation, because of the inequality with white races, white nations.

If they are inferior, why fear them? The logic of this situation shows conclusively that the superiority of the Japanese as a race, as a nation in the economic world contest soon to begin and to be waged to gain supremacy is recognized and that by this token they must be discriminated against racially by the white nations.

In the humble opinion of this writer the white nations will make a grave mistake if such discrimination be enforced. Much wiser will it be to cultivate and maintain amicable relations with Japan than to incur her enmity. The German and the Russian people as nations are not yet in the League of Nations; neither is Mexico, and some of the South American nations in close sympathy with Mexico and very friendly toward Japan. Japan could in her own time and way sever relations with the League of Nations. What this might portend, certain nations in the league having won Japan's enmity, and these same nations being unloved by the other peoples mentioned, one may readily conjecture.

If the world is to be kept at peace it can not be done by fanning into flame the embers of hatred. These embers must be made wholly dead by throwing on them the water of good-will.

AUBREY JONES,

San Francisco, December 19.